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Spring or Summer 1980

To: The Hardcore
From: Howie Wolke, Dave Foreman
Re: EARTH FIRST

The time has come to inject new vigor, new tactics, and an old-fashioned radical ideology into the increasingly stagnating environmental movement. We are tired of making political compromises in order to look "reasonable". We are tired of always being on the defensive. And we are tired of letting a bunch of corporate, bureaucratic, and political madmen force the environmental movement to justify protecting a few meager remnant tracts of America's wild country.

Someone needs to speak for the Earth! Someone needs to tell America what kind of land preserve system we would have had if this nation had been developed over the last 200 years with an ecological conscience. Someone needs to forcefully state the importance of preserving the biological/ecological diversity of our planet. And someone needs to say that maybe it's not too late.

EARTH FIRST is the name of our new organization. We are hoping to have a solid set of proposals (a "platform", if you will) completed and ready for the national media by late next fall. The platform will be largely composed of a national system of ECOLOGICAL PRESERVES. We have already drawn up a preliminary draft list, partially from our knowledge of landforms and ecosystems, and partially from the "Ecoregions of the United States" map by R.G. Bailey (1976) which was distributed by the Forest Service with their illegal RARE II EIS.

As you can see, we will finally be doing what our enemies have been accusing us of doing for years: attempting to create wilderness! Within each reserve, all existing developments (roads, towns, nukes, etc.) will be obliterated by the same implements of technology that put them there. We intend to help nature reclaim the earth. Each preserve will be large enough to function as a complete ecosystem, with all known components reintroduced where applicable, ie. wolves, bison, etc.

Finally, we would like to assure you that we are absolutely serious. We even believe that our platform could easily be justified economically, socially, and biologically within existing American society without even causing its downfall. At the very least, our goals will be to:

1. Make existing environmental groups and proposals look more reasonable
2. Keep the environmental movement from straying too far from its ideals; in other words, from becomming too conservative.
3. Raise the ecological conscience of the American people.
4. Instigate a widespread radical environmental movement in the 1980's that is not afraid to use civil disobedience, demonstrations, etc. as tactics. Earth First will remain quasi legal. There is great potential here in tying into the infantile anti-nuke movement.

Remember, few social movements in history have succeeded without a radical arm. Our time has come.

Enclosed is a draft platform. If you're interested, please look it over and make a few comments. We'd also like a few of you to make a committment with your work and your names to Earth First. We're looking for a core group of 7 people (give or take a few) to run this undemocratic organization. Please send your names/comments to:

Dave Foreman
box 1160
Bernallilo, N.M. 87004

or

Howie Wolke
box ~~2671~~ 2348
Jackson, Wy. 83001

NATURE MORE

July 1980 The Newsletter of EARTH FIRST Vol 0 Number 0

There is pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but nature more,
From these our interviews in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express
yet cannot all conceal

- Lord Byron

Consider this the first issue of the EARTH FIRST Newsletter (made possible by a grant from A. Cosmos Blank), but also consider it fairly confidential and not for general circulation or publicity. In it I would like to throw out various rambling ideas, questions, and internal strategizing. This issue is going to only 50 people or so who have expressed real interest. Since I'm recovering from a worse-than-usual vasectomy, I'm in the mood to do this first issue.

First of all, at the Round River Rendezvous, we did have the organizational meeting of EARTH FIRST and selected a national coordinating committee which is to be known as THE CIRCLE OF DARKNESS. Initial members of the CIRCLE are: Howie Wolke, Wyoming; Bart Koehler, Wyoming; Bob Langsenkamp, Colorado; Mike Roselle, Wyoming; Susan Morgan, Colorado; Randall Gloege, Montana; Ron Kezar, New Mexico; Sandy Marvinney, On The Road; Mike Comola, Montana; Cosmos Blank, Texas; John Koehler, South Dakota; and Dave Foreman, New Mexico. That's 12.

I would like a written verification from each of the above that they do indeed want to be on the CIRCLE. There are also a few others who may want to be on the CIRCLE but we should keep the group as small as possible. If, however, anyone else is filled with a burning desire to be a CIRCLE member, let me know. All members of the CIRCLE must be approved by a vote of the rest of the CIRCLE. I would suggest a three-quarters majority. We do want at least one person from the East on the CIRCLE. Members of the CIRCLE OF DARKNESS must be willing to be publicly identified with EARTH FIRST and cannot be employees or officers of straight conservation groups (either national or local). The CIRCLE OF DARKNESS is the governing body of EARTH FIRST and will set policy (administrative and issue), approve memberships, approve state or local groups, and run the outfit, as well as select new members of the CIRCLE.

We also selected an unofficial and secret group of advisors to the CIRCLE. This group will be known as LA MANTA MOJADA and currently consists of eight people who are involved with moderate conservation groups. LA MANTA MOJADA will advise us, act as a link with the conservation establishment, and restrain our more egregious and gonzo ideas. LA MANTA MOJADA is confidential and its existence should not be spread about. I am

sending out a separate memo listing the members of LMM to the CIRCLE and LMM. Again, I will want written verification from each of these eight people. If anyone else wants to be on LMM, let me know. All members of LA MANTA MOJADA must be approved by a vote of the CIRCLE.

We talked little about officers of the CIRCLE and selected none. There are various alternatives: the CIRCLE can be anarchistic without officers and operate by the de facto leadership of whoever wishes to exert him/herself, we could have a relatively weak group of officers, we could have the regular type of officers and setup, or we could come up with something new and gonzo. What's your preference? We do at least need some kind of treasurer to handle the money. We have already received some contributions and we should get more along with membership dues soon. Who will volunteer? If we don't get a volunteer, I'll take the money and go to Mexico. Do we want a bank account or should the treasurer just keep it all as cash? Do we want to come up with a weird title for the treasurer (keeper of the filthy lucre) or just call him/her treasurer? How should our reimbursement policy work?

Susan Morgan, I believe, gallantly volunteered to be editor of this newsletter. I am doing this one because I'm sitting here with sore gonads and nothing else to do. But if Susan is still willing, I'll turn all the rest over to her. Are you, darlin'? This issue is Vol 0 Number 0 because of its confidential nature. It is printed with special ink that, if xeroxed or otherwise copied, will vanish thereby releasing a poisonous gas that will kill or maim anyone within two hundred yards. For your own safety, do not copy or further disseminate this issue. I've tenatively entitled the newsletter NATURE MORE from Byron's poem but it could also be called MAN THE LESS, PATHLESS WOODS, LONELY SHORE, or anything else (ENERGY COUNTRY NEWS?). What do you like? Maybe we should have a contest to name it. A bottle of Tooth's Sheaf Stout to the winner. Susan, if she does accept this mission, can figure out the rest.

We also need a letterhead and press release forms. These should have our logo (green fist). I would suggest that we use a quote from Byron (I love not man the less, but nature more) on the letterhead. Instead of having an address on the letterhead, I'd suggest we leave it blank and let the correspondent use his/her own. How about, though, listing the members of the CIRCLE and their states on the left margin? Who'll take charge of designing these and getting them printed? Should we get a PO box somewhere to be the official permanent address of EARTH FIRST? Where? Who'll do it?

What are we going to do about the basic horseshit of organization? I think all of us would prefer to avoid the entanglements of the system as much as possible but what of it do we need for tax-exemption, etc.? Or do we even want to be tax-exempt? Do we copywrite the name EARTH FIRST? Do we ever - gag - want to incorporate? Write - yuk - a constitution or bylaws? Do we try to get a bulk mailing permit (if we ever get more than 200 members)? Is there anyone who wants to handle these concerns of Babylon?

A membership form is at the end of this newsletter. I have arbitrarily set memberships at ten bucks. However, membership fees may be waived for low-income types if they pledge action for EARTH FIRST. Let's not go overboard on this, though. If you have the lettuce, send it in. All of you know what it costs to get a new organization going. If you don't send in a membership application (with or without money) you don't get no mo' stuff from EARTH FIRST. Contributions in excess of $10 are most welcome. I will try to draft a general EARTH FIRST brochure including membership application next month and send it out for review. Do you have suggestions for it? Do you want to review the draft? Do you want to help on layout and graphics? Included in this brochure will be our statement of principles. Any ideas on this? Future members by their signature will be required to endorse this statement of principles. By the way, membership in EARTH FIRST is confidential and our membership will be keep secret.

We need ideas for projects for EARTH FIRST. A list of some ideas is enclosed. Send in others to me as well as comments on those listed. All projects will be approved by the CIRCLE. These projects are the life blood of the outfit. Remember humor.

As you know, our Wilderness Preserve list is the focus of our platform. Howie is trying to clean up the list that went out in our first memo. Send him your suggestions for additional or alternative preserves and comments on the original 35. We need volunteers to adopt certain preserves and produce a map, write-up, etc. for each. As soon as we have this preserve list in good shape we can release it to the media. If you do not have a copy of the original list of preserves and wish one, send me 40¢ unless you're broke and I'll shoot a copy off to you.

I am planning several river trips next year and hope that active members of EARTH FIRST will be able to go with me. The trips are Rio Grande, Texas, in March; San Juan, Utah, in May; and main Salmon, Idaho, sometime in summer. Each trip will last about a week and will coincide with the full moon. Let me know if you're interested. Also, Howie and Roselle are coming down here in September for a 100 mile backpack through the Gila Wilderness with Ron and me. This might be a good opportunity for some of the leaders of EARTH FIRST to get together in maybe northern New Mexico for a meeting. Let me know if you're interested (at least those of you in Colorado).

EARTH FIRST PROJECTS

LEGAL DEFENSE FUN

1. Creation Myths Suit - Radical christians have filed suit in several states demanding that Genesis be taught in high school biology classes along with evolution as a theory of the origin of life. EARTH FIRST will sue demanding that other creation myths also be taught (such as the Earth being carried around on the back of a giant turtle). I have just ordered a book on native American creation myths, by the way, Bob.

2. RARE II - what is the status of the Montana suit?

3. Overgrazing - file suit against the Tonto National Forest for allowing the overgrazing which led to the floods this winter in Phoenix. An Arizonan needs to take this on.

FUNDING

1. EARTH FIRST Calendar - This is a gonzo calendar. The pictures (photos or drawings) should be suitably bizarre. I have one of me standing on my raft pissing into Lake Foul, for example. We will list all EARTH FIRST religious holidays of course (full moon, solstices, aphelion, etc.) and conservation dates (Aldo Leopold's birthday, signing of the Wilderness Act, etc.), but we particularily want gonzo dates like Sitting Bull's victory over Custer, Mt. St. Helens eruption, death of Las Cruces Jeep Club leader Fred Huff, the outbreak of the Black Death in London, and the Teton Dam collapse. You get the idea. Send me stuff. We could make big bucks from this.

2. Radical Foundations - does anyone know of any that might fund us? Mother Jones had a short piece about some recently. We need someone in charge of fund raising. Who'll volunteer?

3. Ads - When $ is available, we should take out classified ads in Outside, Mother Jones, etc: "Tired of Namby-pamby Environmental Groups? Join the Radical Wilderness Preservation Organization! EARTH FIRST. Write for info."

4. Membership Brochure - We should get our brochure printed as soon as we can and distribute it at conservation meetings, hearings, Earth Day festivities, backpacking stores, and in response to inquiries from our ads.

MEMORIALS

We should get reprints of the Dry Country News piece on Victorio Day for distribution. Other past events also lend themselves to such action as well: a plaque renaming Oliver Lee State Park in New Mexico the Judge Fountain State Park, a monument to the heroes of the Johnson County War in Wyoming, etc. You all ought to have some great ideas.

PRESS RELEASES

We should have press releases ready to go on various issues. For example, we could have one proposing that state lands be returned to the Federal government. The next time there is any noise about the Sagebrush Ripoff, we send it out to all the media and get some attention. This type of thing should have a little background information with it. Langsenkamp might be able to work the stuff up for the Sagebrush issue. The rest of you should be able to come up with other good ideas. We also need to develop a good media list to send releases to. Press releases are one of the major ways we can gain public exposure and notoriety. Will someone volunteer to coordinate our media hype?

BLM

1. Fire Gary Wicks - how about a campaign by EARTH FIRST to demand that Gary Wicks, BLM State Director in Utah, be fired for screwing up the wilderness review in Utah?

2. Prosecute Cal Black - how about a campaign to demand that Cal Black and other southeast Utah politicos who bulldozed a road into a WSA to celebrate July 4 be prosecuted and sent to jail? We should have had a press release ready on this, by the way.

WATER PROJECTS

For the water projects bill in 1981, EARTH FIRST could present a petition to Congress, signed by thousands nation-wide, demanding that Glen Canyon Dam be dismantled and Lake Foul drained. Done right, we could get mucho publicity and attract new members as well as give the porkbarrel boys a kick in the cajones.

DIRTY TRICKS

How about a brochure by our own G. Gordon Liddy Professor of Political Activism, Bob L., on ways of thwarting wilderness destruction that might not be found in the polysci textbooks? Of course we would not advocate any of this - it would be for entertainment purposes only ...

These are merely some ideas to get your depraved brains going. The CIRCLE should develop a detailed list of projects for us to choose from. Once we develop a list and set priorities, we can assign projects to EARTH FIRST members.

The only way EARTH FIRST will get off the ground is if each of you sit down some evening, drink a beer, read a few pages from Hunter S Thompson, Ed Abbey, Jerzy Kosinski, or VS Naipal to get in the mood, and respond to the questions in this newsletter. Tell me what you think. How should we be organized? What will you do? What do you think of the projects suggested? What projects can you suggest? Send me names and addresses of others who might be interested. Get dithyrhambic!

One final note: Howie Wolke and I should probably apologize for our egregiously obnoxious behavior at the Round River Rendezvous. We also should probably apologize for our egregiously obnoxious behavior the next time we get together. Still more finally: ask Howie, Mike Roselle, or me about the christian crusader that attacked us in the Cowboy Cafe in DuBois for being involved in witchcraft ...

Happy Trails

Dave Foreman
PO Box 38 Glenwood, New Mexico 88039 (505)539-2645

EARTH FIRST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

I enclose $10 ___ or more ___

I request a waiver of dues and will work my butt off instead __

RETURN TO: DAVE FOREMAN PO BOX 38 GLENWOOD, NM 88039

COMMENTS:

Foreman

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"DRAFT PLATFORM"

September 1, 1980

Memo To: the leading intellectual and literary lights of EARTH FIRST

From: Dave Foreman

Re: EARTH FIRST Statement of Principles and Membership Brochure

Hey, buckaroos ... enclosed is a very rough draft of the above. Read it, add, delete, edit, throw it out and write your own. Rough as it is, I figure putting something down on paper will be the only way to get you all thinking about it. Feel free to criticize everything: concept, approach, grammar, spelling, whatever.

EARTH FIRST STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

* Wilderness has a right to exist for its own sake

* All life forms, from virus to the great whales, have an inherent and equal right to existence

* Humankind is no greater than any other form of life and has no legitimate claim to dominate Earth

* Humankind, through overpopulation, anthropocentrism, industrialization, excessive energy consumption/resource extraction, state capitalism, father-figure hierarchies, imperialism, pollution, and natural area destruction, threatens the basic life processes of EARTH

* All human decisions should consider Earth first, humankind second

* The only true test of morality is whether an action, individual, social, or political, benefits Earth

* Humankind will be happier, healthier, more secure, and more comfortable in a society that recognizes humankind's true biological nature and which is in dynamic harmony with the total biosphere

* Political compromise has no place in the defense of Earth

* Earth is Goddess and the proper object of human worship

Membership Brochure:

Logo

At last, a radical wilderness preservation group that is not afraid to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done to save Mother Earth ...

The Problem

In spite of rosy rhetoric and pollyanish promises from self-serving politicians and the captains of industry that our environmental problems are being solved, America's and humankind's assault on Mother Earth continues unabated -- indeed at an increasingly feverish pace as our junkie technological order seeks quick fixes. Despite this ravishing of all that is natural -- particularily the wilderness of the American West -- national conservation groups have become more

and more lethargic and moderate, seduced by promises of establishment respectability. Conservation groups have been especially co-opted by the Carter Presidency: for the one sweet plum of Alaskan National Monuments, they have failed to sue over the illegal RARE II process -- the greatest single act of wilderness destruction in American history -- and have declined to speak out boldly against the gutless weakening of the Bureau of Land Management wilderness review and the Department of Interior's half-hearted battle against the Sagebrush Ripoff.

italics

Earth is being raped -- and those who claim to speak for Her are afraid to open their mouths!

The Solution

Now is truly the time for a radical wilderness preservation group that will speak for Earth first. EARTH FIRST is that organization and we will not be deterred by dreams of establishment respectability, good old boy intimacy with the Washington power structure, redneck threats, personal commitment to a plastic energy-addicted lifestyle, or fat salaries in speaking for the Earth, Her wilderness, and Her life force. EARTH FIRST will use the rhetoric, the tactics, and the passion of the Sixties to work for the preservation of Earth as the Galactic Preserve She should be. The juggernaut of modern corporate technology must be stopped!

Who Is EARTH FIRST?

EARTH FIRST has been formed by several long-time conservation leaders who have come to realize the need for radical action. They include Howie Wolke, former Friends of the Earth rep for Wyoming; Bart Koehler, ex-Wyoming Wilderness Society rep; Susan Morgan, formerly education coordinator for TWS; Mike Comola, former President of the Montana Wilderness Association; Sandy Marvinney, past editor of the Wilderness Report; Randall Gloege, ex-Montana rep for FOE; and Dave Foreman, formerly Washington Issues Coordinator for TWS. EARTH FIRST is a national preservation group and hopes to become international in scope. While we are committed to working with other radical groups (anti-nuclear, Native American rights, economic reform, etc.) our base is wilderness preservation and we will focus on that.

Our Program

The heart of the EARTH FIRST program is a system of some 35 large wilderness preserves (1 to 10 million acres) representing all American eco-systems from the southern swamps to eastern deciduous forest, prairie grassland, desert, and western mountains where the Earth will be left untouched. Existing developments will be phased out in these areas and extirpated wildlife (grizzlies, wolves, free-roaming bison, etc.) will be reintroduced. EARTH FIRST will take strong action on related issues such as mining, energy development, off road vehicles, logging, and the MX missile. We will actively campaign for the destruction of dams like Glen Canyon, Hetch Hetchy, Fort Peck, Tellico, and those in Hells Canyon. We do not wish to merely preserve what's left, we want to re-create wilderness. We consider all socio-political tools to be at our disposal including education, media, legislation, litigation, demonstrations ...

Humor

A key element in the EARTH FIRST program is humor. "Ridicule is man's most potent enemy" says Saul Alinsky. Nor do we wish to take ourselves too seriously. Laughter is the only way to maintain personal sanity in a world gone mad. "I've always been crazy, but it's kept me from going insane," sings Waylon Jennings.

Myth And Ritual
EARTH FIRST believes that the Judeo-Christian attitude towards Earth is at the root of our ecological crisis and that we must return to more sublime, perceptive, ancient attitudes towards the Earth Goddess as held by the Cro-Magnons, Druids, and Native Americans. We hope to instill reverance for Earth in American life and to help create new mythology and ritual for the worship of Earth as well as act as a link between conservationists and neo-pagans.

Roots

The Organization
EARTH FIRST is directed nationally by a diverse group of eco-radicals. This council of thirteen is known as the Circle. EARTH FIRST is non-hierarchical and without officers. Membership in EARTH FIRST is open to anyone generally subscribing to the EARTH FIRST Statement of Principles. Membership dues are $10 a year but may be waived for reasons of low income. Members receive a monthly newsletter entitled EARTH FIRST.
Our membership list is kept secret.

EARTH FIRST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Yes, I subscribe in general to the EARTH FIRST Statement of Principles and wish to join. I understand that my membership in EARTH FIRST may be rejected at any time without stated reason by the Circle without refund of my membership dues.

_____ signature

Name etc

Environment & Society Portal

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EARTH FIRST

Samhain Nov 1, 1980 Vol 1 Number 1

Many workmen
Built a huge ball of masonry
Upon a mountaintop
Then they went to the valley below,
And turned to behold their work.
"It is grand," they said;
They loved the thing.

Of a sudden, it moved:
It came upon them swiftly;
It crushed them all to blood.
But some had opportunity to squeal.

- Stephen Crane

Like Pallas Athena springing fully armed from the brow of Zeus, EARTH FIRST enters the wilderness fray ...

"What!?" you say. "Another wilderness group? There are more wilderness groups than plague fleas on a New Mexico prairie dog! I already belong to nine of the damn things. Why another one? Why EARTH FIRST?"

Because we're different.

EARTH FIRST is unique. As a national wilderness preservation organization, we are the only one to say:

* Protection of some of our remaining wilderness is not enough. Protection of all of it is not enough. Not only does EARTH FIRST support wilderness designation for <u>all</u> Forest Service RARE II areas and BLM roadless areas, we also believe that in order to preserve the ecological integrity of our country, it is time to <u>recreate</u> wilderness: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments, and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.

* No more dams! And while we're at it, let's tear a few down (like Glen Canyon and Hetch Hetchy for openers).

* We will not make political compromises. Let the other outfits do that. EARTH FIRST will set forth the pure, hard-line, radical position of those who believe in the Earth first. We are not in competition with more moderate conservation groups nor do we wish to criticize them.

* Lobbying, lawsuits, magazines, press releases, outings, and research papers are fine. But they are not enough. EARTH FIRST will use them, but we will also use demonstrations, confrontations, and more creative tactics and rhetoric. It's time to be passionate. It's time to be tough. It's time to have the courage of the civil rights workers who went to jail. It's time to fight for the Earth first.

* But don't think that we're just a bunch of humorless fanatics who have found a new true-believing cause. We laugh a lot, too. We agree with Waylon Jennings who sings, "I've always been crazy, but it's kept me from going insane." And our founders are some of the most experienced wilderness activists in the country.

Read on, buckaroo.

EARTH FIRST PLATFORM

The core of the EF Platform is a national system of ecological preserves. We have drawn up a draft list based on the ecoregions of the United States. Within each preserve the developments of man will be obliterated and the area will be returned to nature. Each preserve will be large enough to function as a complete ecosystem with all known components reintroduced where applicable (bison, wolf, grizzly, etc.). We believe that these preserves will not have a nationally significant impact on the economy or our standard of living but that they are the minimum required if the United States is to have a healthy land community. In addition to the preserves, the EF Platform includes other demands for reasonable land management. We are interested in comments on the Platform as well as suggestions for additional Preserves and volunteers who will do more detailed work on each. All acreages are approximate.

1. Northern Maine Preserve: Expand Baxter State Park to include the Allagash and St. John's Rivers in a 5 million acre wilderness. Most of this land is uninhabited and would only require closing logging roads and acquiring land currently "owned" by timber companies.

2. Pine Barrens Preserve: 1 million acres in New Jersey including the Atlantic coastal plain.

3. Southern Appalachian Preserve: Expand Great Smokey Mountains National Park into a 3 million acre wilderness.

4. Everglades Preserve: Expand the park north to Lake Okeechobee for a total of 5 or 6 million acres. Few people would be dislocated and the whole watershed would be protected.

5. Southern Bottomlands Preserve: About 2 or 3 million acres of southern floodplain forest, pines, and hardwoods. Possibly along the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers in southwest Alabama.

6. Atchafalaya Preserve: 2 million acres of swamplands in southern Louisiana.

7. Deciduous Forest Preserve: 3 million acres of eastern deciduous forest straddling the wild Ohio River! A good location might be along the Ohio/West Va. border north of Huntington and including much of the Wayne Nat'l Forest. Much reclamation work required but recovery is rapid in this area.

8. Oak-Hickory/Prairie Preserve: about ½ to 1 million acres of this transitional zone in Illinois.

9. Ozark Preserve: 2 - 3 million acres of oak-hickory, other forest types, and wild rivers in Arkansas and Missouri.

10. Tall Grass Prairie Preserve: At least 3 million acres probably around the Flint Hills in eastern Kansas. Total wilderness including reintroduced free-roaming bison, wolves, grizzly, etc.

11. Short Grass Prairie Preserve: a similar 3 million acre Preserve. A possible location would be the western Dakotas.

12. Sand County Preserve: 1 million acres in central Wisconsin in honor of Aldo Leopold.

13. Hill Country Preserve: 1-2 million acres in the oak woodlands and rangelands of the Edwards Plateau of Texas.

14. Big Thicket Preserve: 2 million acres. Long live the Ivorybilled Woodpkr!

15. South Texas Brush Country Preserve: 1 million acres south of San Antonio. Ocelots and jaguarundis.

16. Chihuahuan Desert Preserve: expand Big Bend National Park into a 3 million acre wilderness along the Rio Grande.

17. Guadalupe Escarpment Preserve: 1 million acres of limestone canyons and caves in SE New Mexico and Texas.

18. Wild Missouri Preserve: 2 million acres of prairie and floodplains in Montana. Of course, we'll have to drain the Ft. Peck Reservoir.

19. Central Idaho Preserve: Reunite the Selway/Bitteroot with the River of No Return and throw in the Sawtooths for a 7 million acre wilderness.

20. Greater Yellowstone Preserve: This would include all the National Park and Forest lands around Yellowstone. A few roads like Ashton-Flag Ranch and Cody-East Yellowstone would be closed but we'd let most of the existing roads and developments remain. We'll let 'em have access to Old Faithful.

21. Bob Marshall/Glacier Preserve: Close the Going to the Sun road and the road along the south boundary of the park.

22. Red Desert Preserve: 2 million acres of high desert, sand dunes, buttes, and reclaimed dirt roads in southwest Wyoming.

23. Bighorn Basin Preserve: 1 million acres in northern Wyoming.

24. San Juan Preserve: expand the Weminuche Wilderness in southwest Colorado to 2 or 3 million acres for a good representation of southern Rockies.

25. Escalante Preserve: Including parks, monuments, national forests, and BLM lands, this 10 million acres around the Colorado River in southeast Utah would be similar to the one proposed by Leopold and Marshall in the late '30's. Lake Powell will have to go but a portion of the dam should remain standing as a monument to man's stupidity.

26. Great Basin Preserve: beginning at Cecil Garland's property line in Calleo, Utah, and rising over the Deep Creek Range into Nevada, this 10 million acre wilderness will protect part of the Great Basin.

27. Grand Canyon Preserve: 4 or 5 million acres including Grand Canyon, Paria, Kaibab Plateau and the Arizona Strip.

28. Owyhee Preserve: 4 million acres of the high desert and Owyhee Canyons in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada.

29. Alvord Desert: 2 - 3 million acres of the Oregon High Desert.

30. Gila/Blue Range Preserve: 4 million acres in New Mexico and Arizona including Gila Wilderness and Black Range and Blue Primitive Areas.

31. Sierra Madre Preserve: 2 million acres in SE Arizona and SW New Mexico.

32. Sonoran Desert Preserve: 5 million acres in two units divided by I-10 in southwest Arizona centered around Cabeza Prieta/Organ Pipe Cactus and Kofa Game Range.

33. Sonora/Mohave Transition Preserve: 1 million acres south of Kingman, AZ.

34. Mohave Desert Preserve: 15 million acres in the California Desert but we'll allow I-10 and 40 to remain so Californians can escape the smog.

35. Southern Coast Range: 1 million acres as a refuge for the condor.

36. Sierra Nevada Preserve: 6 million acres from the Central Valley including Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite to the Owens Valley and the White Mountains. We might be willing to allow one or two roads to remain.

37. Olympic Preserve: 2 - 3 million acres of the park, forest, and coast.

38. North Cascades Preserve: 5 or 6 million acres from Snoqualmie Pass north to Canada. Ross "Lake" Dam will have to go.

39. Coast Range Preserve: 4 or 5 million acres from the Redwoods to Kalmiopsis in California and Oregon.

40. The entire island of Hawaii (or a more suitable island).

41. No more development in Alaska, period!

42. Wilderness designation for the moon (it's already suffered ORV abuse).

43. RARE II Alternative J.

44. All BLM roadless areas designated wilderness.

* No nukes, dismantle all existing nukes.
* No uranium mining.
* No more stripmining.
* No more power plants (fossil fuel, nuke, hydroelectric).
* No more dams (and a list of those to be dismantled).
* No more roads on public lands.
* A complete ban on the recreational use of ORV's.

LONG LIVE THE WILD EARTH!

Poetry must be in advance of action. - Rimbaud

HOW WE OPERATE

We believe that an organization's soul is revealed by the way it is organized. And since we don't accept the legitimacy of the corporate state world that is destroying the magic of the planet from the Urals to the Rockies, from the Pacific to Antarctica, from the Amazon to the Outback, neither do we play their games in our organizational structure. EARTH FIRST is directed by the Circle, a select group of leading eco-radicals. They run the outfit and charter local affiliates. They approve membership applications and set policy. EARTH FIRST has no officers or other hierarchical structure. We are not incorporated. We do not have special mailing privileges. We do not have tax-exemption for contributions. We do not have a constitution or bylaws. We encourage individual or ad hoc group creative action by our members and sympathizers. If you generally agree with the EARTH FIRST Platform and want to work with other women and men to try to protect the Earth instead of playing organizational games, join us!

Not blind opposition to progress, but wide-eyed opposition to progress!

THE CIRCLE

The current members of the Circle (with background information for identification purposes only) are:

A. Cosmos Blank - Iowa - wildlife photographer, naturalist
Dave Foreman - New Mexico - writer and photographer - former Southwest Rep and Washington Issues Coordinator for The Wilderness Society
Randall Gloege - Montana - university professor - former Northern Rockies Rep for Friends of the Earth
Bart Koehler - Wyoming - songwriter, performer - former Wyoming/Dakota Regional Rep for The Wilderness Society
Susan Morgan - Colorado - television station manager - former Educational Director for The Wilderness Society
Mike Roselle - Wyoming - roughneck, cook - former Yippie leader
Howie Wolke - Wyoming - wilderness guide and outfitter - former Wyoming Rep for Friends of the Earth

We are seeking a few additional members for the Circle, particularily women and people from the East or the West Coast.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed ...

- W.B. Yeats

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EARTH FIRST

What I like about EARTH FIRST is the Monkeywrench elan, the warrior society spirit missing from the robertrule heavy established groups or the consensus chaos of anti-nuke coalitions.

- Colorado

I think I love it.

- Washington, DC

I am interested in becoming involved with EF except for the fact that it seems much too moderate, comprised of apathetic panty wastes too uncommitted to take a firm stand and too willing to compromise. A proper elite extremist radical group dedicated to the good of the universe cannot have such narrow constraints. Sure, there was the standard old motherhood and apple pie call for lunar wilderness designation. Pretty safe, noncontroversial, bland, mashed potatoes kind of issue. But there was no mention of black hole preserves, quasar parks or buffer zones for nebulae refuges. If EF breaks out of its fledging conservative mold and becomes more aggressive and progressive, I will be happy to consider active membership.

- Colorado

EARTH FIRST ISSUES

In addition to agitating for the EF Platform, we are interested in various other issues. Several tentative projects follow. We would like your reaction to these and whether you think they are good ideas or if you would like to be involved in any of them. We are also interested in additional suggestions for EARTH FIRST issues.

DAMNING THE DAMS

Like pimples on a chocolate-eating teenager's face, dams and other destructive water projects keep popping up across the landscape. We think conservationists have been fighting proposed dams for too long. It's time to start tearing down a few! EARTH FIRST is compiling a list of the more environmentally destructive and economically egregious dams in the country and will propose that they be dismantled (such as Ft Peck, Hetch Hetchy, and Tellico). Please send us your suggestions for this modest list (no more than two or three hundred). We will zero in on the most awful of them all: Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Foul. We are starting a nationwide petition campaign demanding the dismantling of the dam and the draining of Lake Foul. The petition will be presented to Congress during their consideration of the water projects bill next year. Other fun and games are planned, too. If you would like to help recreate a few wild rivers, let us know.

SAGEBRUSH REBELLION SUCCEEDS!

Only the most naive ever believed that the true intent of the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion was to gain title to the federal public lands in the western states. This was both a smokescreen and an extreme position to set the limits of discussion. The actual purpose of the Sagebrush Rebellion was to emasculate the Bureau of Land Management and return to the old Bureau of Livestock and Mining days. The revolters also hoped to cow conservationists, the Forest Service, and Washington politicians, and to encourage local and state politicians to make stronger anti-environmental statements. They have admirably succeeded. We could learn something about tactics from Cal Black and Dean Rhodes.

EARTH FIRST is launching a two-pronged counterattack. First of all, we propose that the state lands be returned to the federal government. We will prepare fact sheets on the economic and environmental benefits of this, and the mismanagement of these public lands by state land offices. Then we will begin to campaign for the introduction of bills in Congress and the state legislatures to transfer the state lands to the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies.

Secondly, we will demand that the Grand County (Utah) Commissioners who sent the flag-flying bulldozer into a BLM wilderness study area on July 4 be personally prosecuted under all applicable laws. These yahoos belong in jail. BLM, with its tail tucked between its legs (it doesn't even have a tail in Utah), did essentially nothing to prevent the incursion and now is doing little to redress the crime. As long as these demagouges remain unpunished, every cretin in the West who fancies him or herself a politician willconsider similar action. We also would suggest that lovers of the West consider individual action in response to the Sagebrush Ripoff. If you need inspiration, read the Monkey Wrench Gang ...

EARTH FIRST CALENDAR

As a fundraising project and to gain notoriety, EARTH FIRST plans to publish a calendar. We are seeking droll or gonzo photographs or artwork (river runners wallowing in mud, someone urinating on a dam, pagans around a May pole, etc.). We also are looking for commemorative dates (some selected already include: June 5 1976 Teton Dam collapse; July 16 1979 Paul Watson and Sea Shepherd sink pirate whaler Sierra; Oct 30 1948 Denora, Penn., killer smog). Other dates we are looking for are: first Model T off the assembly line, gasoline hits $1 gallon, Cuyahoga River catches on fire, and some date for Ned Ludd. If you have suggestions, send them in (with a reference, please). Be as bizarre as you wish (like the Jan 15 1919 flood

of molasses that drowned 21 in Boston or Oct 23 4004 BC 9AM Man created by Jehovah according to Bishop Usher). Earth worship dates (full moons, Sabbats) will be listed. We would like the first issue of the calendar to run from Samhain, 1981, (Nov 1) to Samhain, 1982.

EARTH FIRST WINTER GATHERING

Interested in getting together with other EF people to plan issues strategy? Well, if not that, how about getting away from the snow? Getting drunk? Enjoying the wilderness? We are tentatively planning an EF gathering sometime this winter (winter solstice?) in the southwestern desert (Big Bend, Kofa?) or Mexico (Pinacate, Sonora coast?). Also Dave Foreman is planning several float trips for EF leaders in 1981 (share food/gas) (Big Bend, Yampa, Dolores, Desolation, San Juan, Salmon). If you're interested, let him know. Give your time and place preference for the winter gathering.

EARTH FIRST MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER

Why'd you get a copy of this newsletter? We got your name off a bathroom wall in Juarez. If you'd like to get another one, we need to hear from you (unless you're already a member). Membership in EARTH FIRST is open to those generally agreeing with the Platform. Send us money (ten bucks is a good figure unless you can send more). If you are broke and plan to be active, you can join for nothing. Our membership list is kept entirely confidential and all EF mail is unmarked (to protect your reputation). Because of our anarchistic structure a member can participate at any level she/he wishes and really have a voice in the gang.

This first issue of the EARTH FIRST NEWSLETTER was edited by Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke. To communicate with EARTH FIRST:
Dave Foreman 1802 Sun Ct Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124 (505)898-5468
Howie Wolke Box 2348 Jackson, Wyoming 83001 (307)733-5343

Susan Morgan (PO Box 536 Breckenridge, CO 80424 303-453-2669) will edit the next issue (in about 2 months). Articles, poems, artwork, etc. are welcomed. Feel free to show this newsletter to friends, neighbors, fellow inmates, or the FBI.

Happy Trails

- -

EARTH FIRST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Yes, I subscribe in general to the EARTH FIRST Platform and wish to join.

Name Phone

Address Zip

___ $10 is enclosed; or more _____ or less _____

___ I request a waiver of dues and will work my butt off instead

FOREM
1802 S
Ro R
87124

Environment & Society Portal

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EARTH FIRST!

Yule, December 21, 1980
Volumn 1 Number 2

As for small difficulties and worryings, prospects of sudden disaster, peril of life and limb; all these, and death itself, seem to him only sly, good-natured hits, and jolly punches in the side bestowed by an unseen and unaccountable old joker...There is nothing like the perils of the wilderness to breed this free and easy sort of genial, desperado philosophy.

Herman Melville

ARE WE SERIOUS?

The response to the first EARTH FIRST! Newsletter has been most encouraging. Thank you very much for all of your encouraging words and support! We look forward to getting to know all of you personally in the next few months.

Perhaps we are in the right place at the right time. Several people, however, have asked, "Are you serious?", not out of concern that we're a bunch of off-the-wall nuts, but fearing that EARTH FIRST! will never get beyond words to action. This certainly a legitimate fear, and there is but one answer for it - It depends entirely upon you.

Howie Wolke, Susan Morgan, Dave Foreman, and a couple of other people cannot make EARTH FIRST! an effective radical force for wilderness preservation. But you can. You can radicalize the conservation movement. You can provide an effective conter-force to the Sagebrush Rebels who will be running the Interior Department. You can stop the juggernaut of egregious 'progress" by throwing yourself onto the tracks like Australian army ants. You can save some of the precious magic of the planet. The few who started EARTH FIRST! can help, but if they are left alone, it won't take the system long to chew them up and spit them out.

Is EARTH FIRST! serious? It's up to you!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You've joined EARTH FIRST! (maybe even sent in some money). Now what? What can you do to be active in the outfit, to help the gang? The following are some suggestions.

1. Adopt a preserve. Pick one of the proposed EF! preserves and develop a firm boundary and written proposal for it. Organize people in support of it. Begin to agitate for it.
2. Develop issue positions. Pick an environmental issue (ORV's, toxic substances, clean air, Antarctica, mining, etc.) and develop EARTH FIRST!'s position on it. Write a fact sheet defending that position. Be EF's coordinator for it.
3. Comment on environmental statements or agency wilderness proposals from a radical perspective. Recommend wilderness boundaries far larger than those of the Sierra Club or Wilderness Society. Develop and support radical alternatives for Forest Service Land Use Plans. Get others to testify or write in support of the position you develop.
4. Organize a local radical conservation group. It can be independent or affiliated with EARTH FIRST! Groups already organized include EARTH FIRST! MONTANA, OZARK GREEN WORLD AVENGERS, APPALACHIAN SURVIVAL (Virginia), and ALASKA SURVIVAL. The EF! Newsletter will report on the activities of these groups.
5. Radicalize moderate conversation groups. If you're involved in a moderate conservation group, stay involved, but try to get them to take stronger positions and propose larger wilderness areas.
6. Participate in EF! demonstrations and gatherings. (See related articles.)
7. Organize colleges. Signs point to growing activism in colleges and universities during the '80's. Organize radical conservation groups on campus.
8. Coordinate national EARTH FIRST! projects. We need good people who will be in charge of our national projects (Sagebrush Rebellion, Glen Canyon Dam, Creation Myths, ORV's, EF! Calendar, Publicity Coordination, etc.)
9. Recruit more EF! members or help raise funds for EARTH FIRST! (Also distribute copies of the EF! Newsletter.)
10. Publicize EARTH FIRST!. Write articles or give talks on the growing radical environmental movement. Letters to the editor, too. We've been quiet for too long. Let's make the world aware that the Sierra Club and other groups are moderates -- that there is a truly radical wing of conservation.
11. Create the poetry of the movement. We need myth, ritual, and song.

These are just a few suggestions on how you can help make EARTH FIRST! effective, serious, and active. From what we know of our growing and enthusiastic membership, you will think up a lot of other ideas. Contact Dave Foreman or another member of the Circle for more information.

GATHERINGS

Due to a variety of problems, we were unable to organize an EARTH FIRST! Winter Gathering. But we are definitely organizing two other gatherings during 1981. They are important, both from the standpoint of EF! members meeting one another and also letting the world know we exist. If you are willing to help organize either of these get-togethers or act as a car pool coordinator for your area, contact Dave Foreman.

Glen Canyon Dam -- March 21

The Spring Solstice is a time of rebirth, of celebration, of joy, of Earth worship. Glen Canyon Dam drowned the most magical place on the continent and is the symbol EARTH FIRST! has chosen to represent man's assault on the Earth. So, what could be more appropriate than a national EARTH FIRST! gathering at Glen Canyon Dam for the Spring Solstice on March 21, 1981? Not only is March 21 the Solstice, but it is the Full Moon and a weekend! Come and join EARTH FIRST! for poetry, music, ritual, and celebrating. Before and after the Spring Solstice celebration there will be the opportunity for wilderness adventure (cross country skiing in the shadow of the sacred San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, hiking in the Grand Canyon, Escalante, Paria, etc.). This also will be an opportunity to discuss the future of EARTH FIRST! More details will be forthcoming in the February 1, issue of the Newsletter. We need your help to organize this gathering.

Round River Rendezvous - Fourth of July

This year's Round River Rendezvous will be held on the Fourth of July weekend near Moab, Utah. By happy coincidence, the Grand County Commission plans (again!) to send a county bulldozer into a BLM Wilderness Study Area near Moab on the Fourth. The RRR is not just an EARTH FIRST! event but all conservation groups are invited to take part. The RRR is an opportunity for conservationists from around the West to gather in a quasi-wilderness setting to discuss western conservation issues and have a good time. We would like to turn out several hundred people for this important rendezvous. More details will be included in later Newsletters, but mark the Fourth on your calendar now and begin telling others about it. Help is also needed to organize this session. Come enjoy the fireworks!

"Rationality is a curse since it can cause humans to forget the natural order of things. A wolf never forgets his or her place in the natural order. Europeans do."

Russell Means

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Two articles recently appeared in national magazines that may be of interest to EARTH FIRST! members. The December issue of MOTHER JONES printed the text of a speech given by Russell Means this summer at the Black Hills Survival Gathering in South Dakota. It is entitled, "For the World to Live, 'Europe' Must Die." Means makes it clear that "European" does not refer to race but to mind set, in this case referring to the Earth-dominating, technological, progress-worshipping philosophy of western civilization (including Christianity, Marxism, Capitalism, and Scientism).

The second article, in the October issue of NEW AGE is "Eco-Violence -- Should We Fight to Save the Earth?" by Robert Hunter. The article considers whether violence, generally based on the anti-whaling crusade, is a moral approach for preservationists.

Both articles are well worth reading. If you can't locate a copy, send EF! $.75 for Means' or $.50 for Hunter's, and we'll send you a photocopy. You will enjoy reading these articles which are important bricks in the construction of a philosophical foundation for radical conservation.

MYTH AND RITUAL

A number of EARTH FIRST! members are neo-pagans and are interested in developing the myth and ritual of a new Earth worshiping wilderness region. They are talking about ways to celebrate full moons, solstices, and equinoxes. They also are working on a moon cycle calendar with new names for days of the week and months.

Make no mistake, this is not rehashed Eastern mysticism or urban kabalism, it is wilderness magic. Contact Bill Coleman, P.O. Box 551, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203; (501) 664-7127 (R).

SURVIVING THE BIG ONE

Situation in Poland got you nervous? Do you have little faith in the ability of Ronnie and Leonid to keep the nukes from being lobbed back and forth across the North Pole? Well, you ain't alone among EARTH FIRST! members. All retreaters and survivalists are not right-wing religious fanatics. Several EARTH FIRST! members have formed a retreat group and plan to survive World War III. If you are seriously interested, you can write a letter to RETREAT c/o Dave Foreman, 1802 Sun Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

"Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil.

But is it not the fault of the government itself that the remedy is worse than the evil?...I say, break the law."

Thoreau
Civil Disobedience

EDITORIAL -- TIMID ENVIRONMENTALISM

During the last several years, it seems that conservationists have become timid -- almost apologetic. When we defend a wilderness proposal, we explain that there are no real conflicts with minerals, timber, or grazing. If problems do develop, we eagerly cut out the offending portion of the area in order to alleviate timber or mineral objections. We come hesitant, embarrassed at having to stack up wilderness values against those of greenback America. I accept my personal share of this responsibility for the seven or eight years I worked for The Wilderness Society. During that time I often advocated a rabbit-like position of keeping our profile low and believed that moderation was the best way to influence the powers that be and get wilderness protected.

Well, not any more.

Is the Moral Majority timid? The NRA apologetic? The Sagebrushers hesitant? In an earlier age, did the civil rights and anti-war activists keep their profiles low?

Not really. And why should we?

If you believe in wilderness, if you love the Earth, if you are appalled at what humankind is doing to the biosphere, then don't be timid. Speak out. Act with vigor and pride in your convictions!

It's time for us to fight!

Dave Foreman

THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR (YUK)

For those of you who feared the worst for the environment under a Reagan presidency, remember: You aren't paranoid if they really are out to get you!

BUILDING ALLIANCES

If I had a hammer
& not the one that busted

in my hands as organizers are
busted for planting

trade union pegs
to stretch the corporate tent

a hammer that wouldn't
buckle under

to repeated blows merciless
sun baking the poor

tools pushed to their limits
snapping under pressure

if I had a hammer
forged of the Mother's fury

& tempered with love
for all her relations

two-legged four-legged
buried stone or spiraling seed

a hammer shaped to
the will of the people

nother could stop us
from driving a nail through

the heart of the beast
to begin the reconstruction

building alliances
powerful as the wind

that rips a roof to shreds
or sweeps a prairie clean

artful goodtimes
union of street poets
summer 1980

Ronald Reagan's choice for Secretary of the Interior could not have been worse. It is James Watt of Denver, head of the antienvironmental Mountain States Legal Foundation, an outfit that has filed suits and appeals and intervened on behalf of overgrazers, Sagebrush rebels, miners and oil men against the already weak environmental regulations of BLM and other federal agencies.

Since the phrase, "Putting the fox in charge of the chicken house," is overused, we'll say that making James Watt Secretary of the Interior is like making David Berkowitz (Son of Sam) chief of homicide for the New York Police Department.

The election of Reagan as President has put the Sagebrushers firmly in control of the Interior Department. The advantage of this is that we now have thoroughgoing evil to fight instead of inept bureaucracy...

Get ready for the environmental Battle of the Bulge in the Rocky Mountain West!

NEW PRESERVES

Several new preserves have been suggested to EF!, and we are happy to adopt the following as additions to our Platform.

Adirondack Preserve - The entire six million acres within the blue line restored to a wilderness condition.

California Coast Preserve - Six million acres (or so) from Santa Cruz to Point Concepcion, including Big Sur and Diablo Canyon. *Dredge out the filled in portions of San Francisco Bay to pre-European days.

You also may want to look at an article in the January, 1981, PLAYBOY: "The Astonishing Wrongs of the New Moral Right," by Johnny Greene. The enemy is more dangerous than we may have thought.

T-SHIRTS AND BUMPER STICKERS

We are thinking of offering various t-shirts and bumper stickers to our members and the general public. Suggested bumper stickers include: EARTH FIRST!, MONKEY WRENCH GANG, IMMORAL MINORITY, WILDERNESS, DAMMIT!, HONK IF YOU'RE A MISANTHROPE, HAYDUKE LIVES, HOWL IF YOU LOVE WOTAN. T-shirts include: EARTH FIRST! with the green fist logo, and MONKEY WRENCH GANG with the monkey wrench.

Let us know what you think and if you think we could get rid of enough to be worth the trouble. Bumper stickers and t-shirts are, of course, a good way to publicize EARTH FIRST! (and to get your nose broken in a bar in Hanksville, Utah -- Are there bars in Hanksville?)

BOOK REVIEW

HISTORY OF THE IDEA OF PROGRESS, by Robert Nisbet (Basic Books). A weighty tome by the Albert Schweitzer Professor of Humanities Emeritus at Columbia University, this deals with the philosophical history of the enemy -- the philosophy of the cancer cell. This is a scholarly and complete review of the development of the ideas of progress and, if you're of a philosophical bent or just like to impress your friends, it's an excellent way to find out what we're up against -- from Protagoras through St. Augustine, Comte, Marx, to that guy with the blow-dry hair and three-piece suit advising the president of the corporation that's gonna screw up your paradise for the greatest good for the greatest number, ad naseum.

Although the author is clearly in sympathy with the idea of progress, one of the last chapters in the book deals with thoughtful objections to the obsession in modern times. If nothing else, go down to your library and pluck the book off the shelf, and read the chapter 'progress at Bay." It will give you some good ideas for future reading to be able to say with greaer intellectual authority, "Hey wait a goddamn minute!"

(How's this for an EF! slogan: Not blind opposition to progress, but wide-eyed opposition to progress!)

EF! ISSUE COORDINATORS

Earlier in this issue in the article, "What You Can Do," we mentioned that we need coordinators for various issues. EF! Issue Coordinators are responsible for catalyzing and brainstorming on a particular issue, drafting proposed legislation, writing fact sheets, organizing an EF! committee, and generally taking charge of the issue.

Coordinators are needed on the following:

1. ORV's (outlaw them)
2. Sagebrush Rebellion (return state lands to the federal government)
3. Creation myths
4. Dam Dismantling
5. Round River Rendezvous
6. Public Relations

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN RISES FROM THE DEAD

Remember the Scopes Trail in Tennessee back in the twenties? Well, the bible-thumping hillbillies are at it again.

In California, New York, Texas, and other states, believers in the genesis theory of creation are storming the public schools crying to have their myth taught as a viable theory of creation along with evolution in biology classes. (Our new President, darling of the intellectual set, has endorsed this by the way.)

Now, EARTH FIRST! has nothing against this. Some of us have always felt that scientism's view of the development of life was a mite clinical (sort of like comparing sexual research in a stainless steel laboratory with that performed in a warm breeze, under a full moon, along a wilderness river somewhere). So we are wading into this issue.

We find the myth of an obscure mid-eastern tribe as contained in genesis to be thoroughly unimaginative, dull, and lacking in literary merit. We propose that a variety of creation theories be taught in high school biology classes (such as the world being carried around on the back of a giant turtle, or Odin forming the earth out of the flesh of Ymir).

We would like to compile a fact sheet on this issue and jump into the discussion. This is not just a gonzo project, but a means of demonstrating in our schools the rich variety of human thought and respect for the Earth.

For those of you who are interested, you may also wish to read SPIRITS OF THE SACRED MOUNTAINS, by William Coffer, CREATION MYTHS, by Marie-Louise Von Franz, MYTHS OF CREATION by Philip Freund, and THE SPIRAL DANCE, by Starhawk.

A Coordinator for this issue is needed. If you are interested, please let us know. Followers of Jerry Falwell need not apply.

ABOUT EARTH FIRST! AND THE NEWSLETTER

Kicking andscreaming, EF! is slowly being organized. We now have a bank account. Membership dues and contributions should be made out to EARTH FIRST! and sent to Susan Morgan, P.O. Box 536, Breckenridge, CO 80424.

Susan is also in charge of the membership list and newsletter. So, if you have suggestions of people to receive the newsletter, send their names and addresses to Susan. Dave Foreman is co-editing the newsletter with Susan and is generally coordinating issue matters. Contact Dave at 1802 Sun Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, (505) 898-5468.

MORE ABOUT EARTH FIRST!

In addition to Dave and Susan, members of the Circle, the governing body of EF!, are Howie Wolke - Jackson, Wyoming; Randall Gloege - Billings, Montana; Bart Koehler - Laramie, Wyoming; Cosmos Blank - Eugene, Oregon; and Mike Roselle - Jackson, Wyoming. The Circle is assisted by a number of advisors.

The EF! Newsletter is sent to members eight times a year (solstices, equinoxes, and sabbats). Membership in EARTH FIRST! is ten bucks (unless you're broke). Any contributions are appreciated!

EARTH FIRST! has no officers, no heirarchy other than the Circle and advisors, no tax-exemption, no bulk mailing privileges, no constitution, no by-laws. We're here to do something (and get drunk now and then), not play organizational games. Copies of the first issue of the newsletter which contains our Platform are available from Dave or Susan.

Contributions to the newsletter -- articles, reports, art, book reviews, letters, poetry, quotes, etc. -- are welcome and encouraged. Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous or if you wish your name to be used.

Membership in EARTH FIRST! is open to anyone in general agreement with our Platform. Membership is kept entirely confidential, and all mailings are sent in a plain brown (or white) wrapper!

AND MORE...

All hail the new organization. May it flourish and the earth with it. -- Santa Fe

You guys are a breath of fresh air. -- Nevada City, CA

Good luck with EF! Boy, are we gonna have fun with Reagan! -- Radium Springs, NM

I've been leaning in the direction of Earth First ever since I've seen how the grazing EIS process is <u>not</u> working. Shit-kicking bastards. -- Tucson

Deal me in. I'm not adverse to being the bag carrier in the shit war ahead. -- New Mexico

...with a facist like Ronald Ray Guns after us, there can be NO moderate stances any longer -- Flagstaff

I appreciate your guts, so here is some $$. No joking -- watch out for the FBI as they will <u>surely</u> be watching you. -- Missoula

Thank God you are here! I'm ready to reclaim the Earth. We need a leading edge. -- Walla Walla

Great!!! Yes, evolution of the environmental movement! Next decade should be great fun! -- California

Russ Train once said, "Thank God for Dave Brower -- he makes it so easy for the rest of us to appear reasonable." Youze guys are about to make Dave Brower look reasonable, and more power you! -- Tom Turner, Editor, Not Man Apart

Does the spirit of Rudolf the Red live? -- Ohio

As you must be aware after constant criticism, your program is far too conservative. Why no endangered species program? Re-intro of griz, elk, wolf, and mosquito. Stegosaurus in Vernal, Sabertooth cat in Escalante, intelligent life in Blanding? -- Utah

Great organization! Which damn dam are we going to dismantle first? -- New Mexico

No waiver, but I'll work my ass off. We're used to waging wars here in the armpit of Redneck country. Nothing like a good battle to lift the spirits. -- Montrose, CO

Having just testified before Santini as one humanoid amidst a sea of diamond studded Sagebrush Rebels, I need EF! This is Hatch Country. -- Salt Lake City

Keep the newsletter coming! More poetry. -- Seattle